

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for reducing the diameter of a stent (2), comprising compressors (9, 9a) which act, at least indirectly, radially on the outer surface of the stent (2) and are supported on a circumferential abutment (3, 3a), characterized in that flexible tensioning members (15) are provided between the radially inwardly moving segmental compressors (9, 9a) and the abutment (3, 3a) and actuatable by a pressure fluid in opposition to a resiliently elastic rebound force (13, 21).
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the tensioning members (15) are formed by balloons or expandable tubes.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the compressors (9, 9a) have concave contact surfaces in a direction towards the circumferential abutment (3, 3a), and the abutment (3, 3a) has concavely curved resistance surfaces (8, 8a), which are open towards its center axis (7, 7a) for the tensioning members (15).
4. Apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the compressors (9, 9a) are disposed in at least two parallel planes (E, E1) and radially movable in each plane (E, E1) independently of the compressors (9, 9a) of a neighboring plane (E, E1).
5. Apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the abutment (3, 3a) extends across all planes (E, E1).
6. Apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 5, characterized in that each of the compressors (9, 9a) embraces a radially inwardly extending strut (5, 5a)

of the cylindrical abutment (3, 3a) and is supported resiliently elastically upon the strut (5, 5a).

7. Apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the compressors (9, 9a) are constructed as hollow circular segments, supported directly on the struts (5a) with their radially directed legs (11a) in diverging relationship as well as projections (20), which extend toward one another adjacent to the abutment (3a), and supported with inwardly directed resilient tongues (21) on crossbars (17) of the struts (5a).
8. Apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the compressors (9, 9a) are made of plastic and the abutment (3a) is made of a metal.
9. Apparatus according to one of the claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the compressors (9) are part of a metallic spring band (10) which extends in the form of a meander in circumferential direction and is respectively supported with trapezoidal zones (13) on two neighboring struts (5) of the abutment (3) made of a metal.